



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Mitsuhiko Hamashima et al

Art Unit: 2772

S. N. 09/648,590

Examiner:

Filed: August 25, 2000

For: IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM

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Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

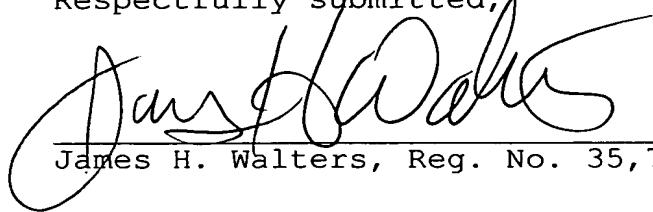
Applicants wish to draw attention to the documents listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449, copies of which documents are enclosed.

A certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e) is attached. The documents listed in Form PTO-1449 were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement, namely a European search report that was mailed January 21, 2003. A copy of the European Search Report, together with a copy of the European official communication is enclosed.

With respect to the two non-English documents (JP 3-189878 and JP 1-152478), these documents are the publications of the priority documents for U.S. Patents 5,142,355 and 4,975,768, respectively. Therefore, the relevance is clearly explained in the U.S. patents.

Pursuant to MPEP 609, it is requested that the Examiner should initial Form PTO-1449 to confirm that each document has been considered, and return a copy of the form to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

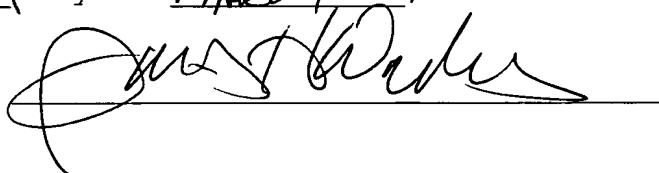


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TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

Docket No. 2671
A-377

In Re Application Of: Mitsuhiro HAMASHIMA et al

Serial No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Group Art Unit
09/648,590	August 25, 2000		2772

Title:



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37 CFR 1.97(b)

- The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

37 CFR 1.97(c)

- The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b), provided that the Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of:

the statement specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e);

OR

the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e) ACCOMPANYING
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Docket No.
A-377

In Re Application Of: **Mitsuhiko HAMASHIMA et al**

Serial No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Group Art Unit
09/648,590	August 25, 2000		2772

Invention



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TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS: Technology Center 2600

This is a statement under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) in the above-identified application.

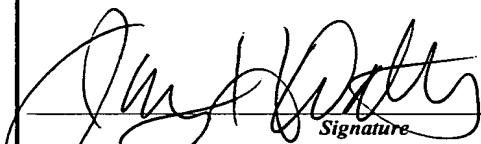
Check applicable statement herebelow:

Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1)

Each item of information contained in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2)

No item of information contained in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned person, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

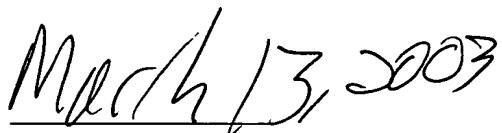


Signature

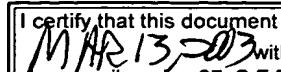
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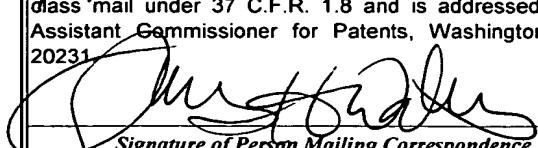
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